## Silent Night (English)

glish)

Silent night! Holy night! All is calm, all is bright. Round yon Virgin Mother and Child! Holy Infant, so tender and mild, Sleep in heavenly peace! Sleep in heavenly peace!

Silent night! Holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight! Glories stream from heaven afar Heav'nly hosts sing, "Alleluia!" Christ, the Savior, is born!

Silent night! Holy night! Son of God, love's pure light! Radiant beams from Thy holy face With the dawn of redeeming grace, Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth! Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth!

## Stille Nacht (German)

Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht! Alles schläft, einsam wacht Nur das traute, heilige Paar. Holder Knab' im lockigten Haar. Schlafe in himmlischer Ruh! Schlafe in himmlischer Ruh!

Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht! Gottes Sohn, o wie lacht Lieb' aus deinem göttlichen Mund, Da uns schlägt die rettende Stund', Jesus in deiner Geburt! Jesus in deiner Geburt!

Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht!
Hirten erst kund gemacht
Durch der Engel Alleluja!
Tönt es laut bei Ferne und Nah:
Jesus, der Retter ist da!
Jesus, der Retter ist da!
(Original composition has 6 verses.)

In celebration of our Savior's birth, every year on December 24 from 3-3:15 p.m. at Bronner's Silent Night Chapel, a Bronner family member and a guitar's lead visitors in singing "Silent Night."

## Silent Aight Amerial Chapel



Bronner's replica in Frankenmuth of the Silent Night Memorial Chapel of Oberndorf, near Salzburg, Austria



WORLD'S LARGEST CHRISTMAS STORE



The concept of erecting a replica of the original Silent Night Memorial Chapel on the premises of BRONNER'S CHRISTmas WONDERLAND in Frankenmuth, Michigan, took root when Wallace "Wally" Bronner visited Oberndorff Salzburg, Austria, in 1976. The city government and the Visitors Bureau of

Oberndorf granted the Bronner family permission to simulate the original Silent Night Memorial Chapel.

Wm. Bronner & Son, general contractor, began construction of the chapel replica in May 1992. The octagonal 28' x 28' x 56' tall building was dedicated on November 20, 1992. Obermdorf's Mayor from 1967-1992, Dr. Raimund Traintinger, and Volker and Norbert Writsschko from Graz. Austria, participated.

On the chapel grounds, plaques with the hymn "Silent Night" in over 300 languages are located along a tranquil lamppost-lined walkway featuring a "Silent Night" musical-score arch and an inpressive life-size Nativity. The peaceful chapel interior consists of a walk-through area where through a glass divider, visitors can see the chancel area; an altar with a replica of Oberndorf's hand-crocheted filet altar cloth, a crucifix carved in 1818, pews, a Nativity scene, an Austrian-style Christmas tree, a memorial wreath with guitar, the Biblical account of the Christmas story, information about the hymn and composers, and a reproduction of the original musical score. Stained glass windows (a gift to the Bronner family from the staff) add to the serene atmosphere. A large Advent wreath, star, and crown hang from the ceiling. The message of Christ's birth, Luke 2:1-19, is shown in 30 languages. Information about the original chapel in Oberndorf, the communities where composers Mohr and Gruber served, and Bronner's chapel is on display.

"Silent Night" music may be heard inside and outside on the chapel grounds. Topped by a brilliant gold star, the chapel is fully illuminated at night and is an inspirational landmark at the south entrance to the city of Frankenmuth. A tribute of thankfulness to God from Wallace and Irene Bronner and family, the memorial chapel is open daily for visitation and meditation. (It is not intended for services or ceremonies).

"Stille Nacht" (Slien Night), the most beloved and widely known Christmas hymn in the world, has been translated into more languages than any other religious Christmas song. Pastor Joseph Mohr wrote the verses, and Franz Xaver Gruber composed the music for the inspiring earor that was first sung, accompanied by guitar, on Christmas Eve in 1818 in St. Nicholas Church in Oberndorf. In the spring of 1819, organ builder Carl Mauracher brought "Silent Night" to his home area of Fügen in Austria's Typol province. The Strasser and Rainer folk singers from Fügen included the song in their concerts, helping to spread the carol in Europe. In 1839 the Rainers brought "Stille Nacht" to the USA when they sang it in front of Wall Street's Trinity Church in New York City.

Oberndorf's St. Nicholas Church was damaged by the annual high waters of the Salzaeh River that flows from the Alpine Mountains in the Salzburg region. The church was rebuilt on higher ground in 1906. The impressive Silent Night Memorial Chapel was erected on a landscaped mound over the original St. Nicholas Church altar site and declarated in 1937.

In 1990, Oberndorf officials supplied "Stille Nacht" to Wallace Bronner in 30 languages. By the 1992 dedication of the chapel replica in Frankenmuth, Bronner's collection had grown to 100. Guests continued submitting versions, making it possible for Wally to present 175 languages to Oberndor's Silent Night Museum at the 175th anniversary Silent Night Symposium at the University of Salzburg. For the 1999 Joseph Mohr Symposium in Wagrain, Wally presented the song in over 300 languages. There the governor of the Austrian province of Salzburg awarded Wally the Silver Medal for Science, Culture, and Religion, which he accepted on behalf of all who contributed to the collection.

"Silent Night" is known as Austria's Christmas gift to the world.



If you travel to Europe, consider a visit to Oberndorf, Austria, to see the original Silent Night Memorial Chapel, only 10 miles north of charming Salzburg. For further information contact

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Mementos of the Silent Night Chapels in Frankenmuth and

Mementos of the Silent Night Chapels in Frankenmuth and Oberndorf are available for purchase at Bronner's.